(b) if so, how long these proposals are pending with the Central Government;

(c) what are the reasons for delay in clearing these proposals ;

(d) whether the Central Government have examined these proposals ; and

(e) if so, by when a decision would be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) (a) Since inception of the forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, 459 proposals seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land have been received from Gujarat State Government upto 31st October, 1993.

(b) As on 31-1-94, out of above, 8 proposals were pending with the Central Government for decision under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Out of these, 2 proposals were pending for more than 6 months.

(c) to (e) After the receipt of proposals from the State Government, the proposal are examined in accordance with the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and if it is found complete in all respect, expeditous action is taken to take final decision for the proposal. However, after examination of proposal, if certain essential details are found lacking, the concerned State Government is requested to furnish these details. After receipt of lacking details expeditious action is taken to finally decide the proposal.

Population of Lions

1000. SHRI RAJUBAHI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the population of lions as during 1980 to 1990 and 1990 to 31st December, 1993;

(b) the sanctuary-wise and State-wise lion population as on the 31st January, 1994; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to protect and preserve the endangered species ?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Census of Lions, which are found only in Gir Forests of Gujarat is carried out periodically. The population as reported by the Gujarat Government during different census is as follows :

Year	Population
1979	205
1985	239
1990	284

(c) The steps taken to protect and preserve this endagnered species include :

i. Strict enforcement of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 in Gir.

ii. Vigilant patrolling of the Gir Sanctuary is done by Forest Staff equipped with vehicles, arms and wireless communication facilities.

iii. Provision of rubble wall fencing around the sanctuary has been made to exclude cattle.

iv. Captive breeding of lions is undertaken in various zoos and several lion safaries have been established.

v. Trade in parts and products of this species is totally banned by law

vi. The Species is placed in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act and Appendix-I of CITES, thereby giving the species maximum legal protection and also putting maximum restraint on its international trade.

vii. Central Assistance is extended to the Govt. of Gujarat for protection and development of the habitate of this threatened species.

Protection of Lions

1001. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any schemes have been launched for protection of Gir lions and other breeds of lions found in different states;